

SESSION 4

EPHESIANS 1.15-20

Context: Paul's proclamation of the Church as the predestined, elected people of God through whom He manifests His manifold wisdom to the world to the praise of His glory is followed by Paul's emphasis on the unity in Christ that all believers share, a unity founded upon the hearing of the Gospel, the believing in Christ and His infinitely pure blood shed as a sacrifice for personal sin, and the sealing of the Holy Spirit, the Guarantor of the believer's receiving his inheritance, the fullness of his salvation in Christ, all to the praise of the glory of God.

Learning Targets For Enduring Understanding From This Session:

1. To understand the essential components of efficacious prayer: giving thanks to God, affirming His sovereign Majesty, surrendering to the transformational power wrought through intimacy with Christ Jesus, and aligning to the will and purpose of God.
2. To understand Christ's intercession for His Bride: that she would know the hope of her salvation, the riches of her inheritance in Christ, and the magnitude of the power within her by which all things come to pass according to God's sovereign purpose and will.

V 15-16 What is the platform for Paul's prayer for the Church?

What can we learn about efficacious prayer from Paul's example?

Why do you think God responds to thanksgiving?

The language of thanksgiving is a grateful surrender to God's loving sovereignty. God cannot help but draw near to the one who is so willing to unconditionally trust Him, the one who always thinks the best of Him no matter what the circumstance.

With respect to the Church, for what two things is Paul specifically thankful?

What is curiously wonderful about faith shared in community?

What is Paul identifying here as the essential character of the faithful Church?

1 Cor 13.13

As the Church loves, she expresses the clearest revelation of the Essence of God. The manifestation to the world of God's manifold wisdom finds its zenith in His love expressed.

V 17 a What is significant about the Name of God given in this portion of the verse?

What is the point of praying in this manner?

Ps 29 1-2

Ps 89 13-15

Isaiah 37.16

Faith in the receiving of God's answer grows when His attributes are first and foremost acclaimed. The eye of efficacious prayer takes in the fullness of God's sovereign majesty.

V 17b What is the overarching request Paul is presenting to God?

What is the absolute essential condition upon which the specifics requested in prayer will be realized? Why is this the case?

Luke 10.21

In the context of intimacy with Christ Jesus, what are the specifics requested?

What is wisdom?

What is revelation?

V 18a What does Paul identify as a major consequence of being in prayer in intimacy with Christ Jesus?

Illumination is the Spirit generated incandescent perspicacity to discern truth.

Jn 1.4

Jn 1.9

Jn 8.12

Ps 36.9

V 18b-19 What finally are the three specific focused requests Paul is presenting to the Lord for the Church?

What is the hope of the Church?

What are the glorious riches of the Church's inheritance? Rm 8.14-17

What is the power that Paul is speaking of?

V 20 What are the two first fruits of this power?

With respect to this power, what is Paul praying for the Church?